

June 18, 1952

Prof. G. Penso
Istituto Superiore di Sanita
Viale Reg. Margherita, 299
Roma, Italia

Dear Prof. Penso:

Thank you very much for your invitation to participate in the Symposium on Systematics of Actinomycetales.

I must reply that, in the first instance, I have not yet obtained assurance of financial assistance that I will need in order to be able to attend the International Congress, and have not yet been able to decide whether I will go.

Secondly, as far as I can tell there has been no substantial work whatever on the genetics of Actinomycetes. This is a field that deserves investigation, but has not so far been properly considered. I have done a few experiments myself with *Streptomyces griseus*, but without any very interesting results. There was some suggestion that different growth-factor-requiring mutants were able to form heterokaryons, but this is not very surprising.

I am sorry not to be able to help you further. It may be that you will be able to find someone to undertake this topic, but in view of its present stage of development, it does not appear to be very profitable.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg